(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor;

(c) what amount was allocated by her Ministry during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in this regard;

(d) whether this matter was deliberated upon in the Conference of Social Welfare Secretaries of the States held recently in New Delhi; and

(e) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The allocations under National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Allocation (R.E.)
1997-98 .	90.00
1998-99	20.00
1999-2000	70.00

(d) The strategies for implementing new programmes for liberation of Scavengers were discussed in detail during the conference. Targets were also given to the States/UTs to liberate and rehabilitate scavengers where scavenging is prevalent.

(e) The Scheme already provides for financial assistance towards liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers in alternative and dignified occupation through viable projects. The Ministry has also addressed the States/UTs where scavenging is prevalent, to also adopt the concept of Sanitary Marts on the basis of the West Bengal Model to accelerate the liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers.

Elderly people benefited by various Schemes

1146. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes which have been introduced in the country for the benefit of the elderly people during 1999;

(b) how many such elderly people have been benefited from these schemes in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up an agency in the State to save such sections of the society from the pitiable and miserable condition living in far-flung areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No new schemes have been introduced for the benefit of the elderly people during 1999. However, there are two ongoing schemes for the welfare of older persons being administered by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment viz., (i) Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Volntary Organizations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Home/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons; and (ii) an Integrated Programme for Older persons. Under scheme (i) above, grant-in-aid is being given upto Rs. 30.00 lakhs for construction of old age homes/multi-service centres. Under scheme (ii) above, grant-in-aid is given to voluntary organization for establishment and maintenance of old age homes, day care centres, mobile care units and non-institutional services for older persons.

(b) and (c) Grant-in-aid has been given to a voluntary organization called Indira Ladies Club for running an Old Age Home and a Day Care Centre in District Nahan in Himachal Pradesh under the scheme An Integrated Programme for Older Persons, as a result of which 75 older persons are benefiting. If any other eligible organization applies for such projects under this scheme the proposal can be considered subject to norms and availability of funds.

Release of Fund to MPSMS

†1147. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds are provided by the Central Government to the Madhya Pradesh State Minorities Commission for monitoring the economic, social and educational development for minorities and for removing their problems;

(b) if so, the details of the fund given; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.